

## **Statement from WECDSB Supervisor, Norbert Hartmann**

"It is a privilege to take on the role of supervisor at the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. I know the school board and the community very well and am committed to bringing out the full potential of both during my time as supervisor.

I want to first assure students, parents, and staff that as an appointed supervisor, the strength of their school system is my top priority. The school board needs stability and solid financial controls so that it can more effectively focus on student achievement and well-being. Working together, we will make sure that happens.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance I place on listening to the community in order to be successful as a supervisor. In my previous experiences as an appointed supervisor, we succeeded because students, parents, staff and trustees were thoroughly consulted as decisions were made. Their input was invaluable and their engagement was a necessary ingredient for success.

It is with that in mind that I take on my duties as supervisor for Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. In order for my supervision to get the best results, it must be a collaborative process that engages all partners and gives them a meaningful role to play in achieving our common objectives. In that spirit:

- students, parents, staff, trustees and the general public will be made fully aware of all matters decided by the supervisor;
- opportunities will exist for meaningful input from students, staff, parents and community members on items prior to their consideration for approval;
- a mechanism for seeking the advice of students, parents, trustees and community partners on future directions will be put in place;
- decisions will be communicated in a timely and effective manner; and
- denominational rights, will be respected and honoured.

I will begin by meeting with trustees and senior administration over the course of the next few weeks to seek their initial input. This will be followed by consultation with staff, parents and community groups. Once their observations and advice are received, we will present a public report on how we intend to get the school board back on track with improved fiscal management and a renewed focus on student achievement and well-being.

Having been raised in Windsor, and having assisted Windsor-Essex Catholic on various matters in the past, I know the talent, passion and creativity that exists in the community. Moreover, I know that there is a strong commitment to student success. While the school board has some challenges, I am confident that they can be overcome.

My role as supervisor, for however long it may last, is only temporary. Windsor-Essex Catholic belongs to the community, and working with the community, we will restore it to its full potential and ensure that finances are better managed and that local students get the world-class education they deserve."

~Norbert Hartmann, Supervisor

